

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UN WA UNSC SF

SUBJECT: UNSC DEBATE ON NAMIBIA

REF: PARIS 24559

1. UK PERMREP RICHARD AND FRENCH DEP PERMREP LECOMPT MET WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON AT USUN MORNING OF 24 AUGUST FOR DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA AND UPCOMING UNSC DEBATE. BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT AFRICANS MIGHT ASK THAT SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON NAMIBIA BEGIN ON THE 21ST RATHER THAN ONE OR TWO WEEKS LATER IN SEPTEMBER AS HAD BEEN EARLIER THOUGHT. FOR THAT REASON THEY BOTH REQUESTED IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION BY THE USG OF THEIR PROPOSALS. FOLLOW-ON: AFTERNOON CAUCUS OF AFRICAN GROUP REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO ADHERE TO EARLIER SCHEDULE FOR SC DEBATE.

2. THE UK PROPOSED THAT A TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE BE MADE TO THE
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SOUTH AFRICANS SUGGESTING THAT THE SAG MAKE A STATEMENT

BEFORE THE UNSC DEBATE OPENS (THEY PASSED OUT TEXT OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WHICH IS REPRODUCED BELOW). LECOMPT SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BACKED THE UK PROPOSAL, BUT THAT THEY HADN'T AS YET HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY ITS SPECIFIC TEXT. GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID THAT HE WULD REPORT IT TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. LECOMPT SUGGESTED, ON GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS(REFTEL), THAT THE UK, US, AND FRANCE COME UP WITH MEASURES WHICH COULD HELP JUSTIFY TO THE AFRICANS POSSIBLE VETOS ON A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THESE MIGHT INCLUDE SUCH ACTIONS AS CHANGING THE JURISDICTION OF THE FRENCH CONSULATE IN CAPETOWN WHICH COVERS NAMIBIA, AND/OR ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA. THE US AND UK POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES OF ENDING CONSULAR SERVICES FOR NAMIBIA AND RICHARD SIAD THAT ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA BY THE WEST WOULD CAUSE MORE TROUBLE WITHIN BRITAIN THAN WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA. LE COMPT SAID THAT THE SUBSTANCE WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE IMAGE OF THE GESTURE WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES NEEDS TO BE MADE TO THE AFRICANS, ESPECIALLY IF THE US, UK AND FRANCE CAST VETOS.

4. USUN REQUESTS COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THE UK AND FRANCH PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TEXT OF BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWS.

5. QUOTE:

IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S VIEW, THE FIRST AIM OF THE TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE TO AGREE TO PRESS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF THEIR OWN BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE OPENS. IDEALLY WE SHOULD LIKE SUCH A STATEMENT

(I) TO CONFIRM THAT IT IS AN OBJECTIVE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT POLICY TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA, AND TO DO SO BY 31 DECEMBER 1978 (IF NOT EARLIER);

(II) THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ARE DETERMINED TO BRING NAMIBIA TO INDEPENDENCE AS A UNITARY STATE;
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(III) THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THERE IS PROVISION FOR NAMIBIANS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY IN AN ELECTORAL PROCESS UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISIOCN; AND

(IV) THAT SWAPO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CAMPAIGN FREELY IN THIS PROCESS.

WE NEED TO GET IT OVER TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS
THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE WILL NOT IN
ITSELF BE ENOUGH FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE AND THAT A SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
ON THE LINES SKETCHED OUT ABOVE IS ALSO NEEDED.

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